



Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
Marc Tosiano, State Statistician

717-787-3904
Fax: 717-782-4011
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/nass

A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Press Release

Press Release Announcement -- March 20, 2003 -- For Immediate Use
For the electronic press release, please visit www.nass.usda.gov/pa/

Pennsylvania Potato Stocks Down from a Year Ago

HARRISBURG -- Total stocks of potatoes stored in Pennsylvania on March 1, 2003, were 500,000 cwt., down 17 percent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. The 500,000 cwt. in storage is 19 percent of the total production of 2,590,000 cwt. for 2002.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 90.8 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss, and home use account for the remaining 9.2 percent.

The 15 major potato States held 164 million cwt. of potatoes in storage March 1, 2003, up 3 percent from last year but 17 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 40 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 1 percent from last year. Disappearance of 247 million cwt., is up 8 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2000 crop movement. Shrink and loss, of 22.2 million cwt. so far this season, is up 2 percent from last year but 24 percent below two years ago. Processors in the 9 major States used 126 million cwt. of potatoes this season, up 10 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago.